

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230



August 11, 2003

Dear Colleague:

We are initiating a national search for an Assistant Director for Geosciences (GEO), to be appointed February 1, 2004, and we seek your assistance in the identification of candidates. Dr. Margaret Leinen has served in this position with great distinction since 2000.

The Assistant Director, GEO, manages a Directorate comprised of three divisions -- Atmospheric Sciences, Earth Sciences, and Ocean Sciences -- and also provides leadership and guidance to multiple international and interagency programs in the geosciences. Enclosed is an information sheet that summarizes the Directorate's activities and the responsibilities of the position, together with the criteria that will be used in the search. Employment may be on a temporary or permanent basis in the Federal Service or by temporary assignment under provisions of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act.

We are very pleased to announce that Dr. Robert Gagosian, Director, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, has agreed to head the Screening Committee. We and the Committee seek your help in identifying candidates with outstanding leadership qualifications, a deep sense of scholarship, a grasp of the issues facing research and education in the geosciences, and the ability to serve effectively as a key member of the NSF policy and management team. We are especially interested in identifying women, members of minority groups, and persons with disabilities for consideration. Recommendations of individuals from any sector -- academe, industry, or government -- are welcome.

Please send your recommendations, including any supporting information which you might be able to provide, to AD/GEO Screening Committee via e-mail (geosrch@lists.nsf.gov) or at the following address: National Science Foundation, Office of the Director, Suite 1205, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. We would appreciate receiving them by September 15, 2003.

Your assistance in this very important task is appreciated.

Rita R. Colwell
Director

Enclosures

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

**SCREENING COMMITTEE REVIEW CRITERIA
FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/GEOSCIENCES, NSF**

We are seeking demonstrated evidence of:

Strategic Vision

- Working knowledge of the major current intellectual challenges and opportunities in the geosciences.
- Ability to formulate strategic plans for research and education both in the geosciences and in multidisciplinary research activities.

Leadership, Direction, and Representation

- Ability to serve effectively as a member of NSF's senior management team, helping to develop consensus both within the directorate and across the agency on agency policy and plans.
- Ability to plan, prioritize, and coordinate interagency and international research programs, such as the Environmental and Global Climate Change and the Ocean Drilling Research Programs.
- Ability to manage an organization consisting of approximately 100 scientific and staff support personnel.
- Ability to communicate NSF policy and strategic plans to the external community, including the public, the Congress, and scientific colleagues in other disciplines.

Credibility within Research and Education Community

- Deep sense of scholarship and significant scientific contributions to one or more of the geosciences.
- Broad understanding of universities and other institutions where research and education in the geosciences is conducted.
- Familiarity with the existing U.S. and international infrastructure that supports research in the geosciences.
- High level of professional recognition in the science community as evidenced by positions held, publications, and/or professional awards.

Commitment

- Commitment to the goals of the NSF Strategic Plan, including the integration of research and education, and the ability to conceptualize the role of the geosciences in achieving those goals.
- Commitment to the employment and development of a highly qualified staff that reflects the diversity of our nation and to the equitable representation of underrepresented groups and institutions on advisory committees, in workshops, and proposal review panels.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

**The National Science Foundation
Directorate for Geosciences**

The **National Science Foundation** (NSF) is an independent agency of the United States Government. The goals of the agency, articulated in the NSF strategic plan, *NSF in a Changing World* (1995), are to enable the United States to uphold a position of world leadership in all aspects of science, mathematics, and engineering; to promote the discovery, integration, dissemination, and employment of new knowledge in service to society; and to achieve excellence in science, engineering, and mathematics education at all levels. NSF seeks to achieve these goals through four core strategies: developing intellectual capital; strengthening the physical infrastructure for science and engineering research; integrating research and education; and promoting partnerships among institutions involved in science and engineering research and education. NSF makes awards that total more than \$3 billion annually to attain its goals, with most support provided to researchers and educators who have submitted proposals that undergo merit evaluation based on peer review.

The **Directorate for Geosciences** (GEO) is one of seven NSF directorates. As outlined in its annually revised long-range plans, GEO's goals are the advancement of fundamental knowledge about the integrated Earth system, enhancement of the infrastructure for the conduct of geoscience research, and improvement in the quality of geoscience education and training. GEO contains divisions for the Atmospheric Sciences, Earth Sciences, and Ocean Sciences. The Directorate has a staff of approximately 110 employees and assignees, and it administers a budget of approximately \$692.21 million annually. In addition to supporting research projects proposed by individual-researchers and small groups of investigators, GEO also provides support for a number of centers. About 33 percent of GEO's budget is used to support multi-user facilities, including the National Center for Atmospheric Research and the U.S. academic research fleet. GEO engages in partnerships with other NSF directorates, other Federal agencies, and international counterparts in a number of special activities.

The **Assistant Director for Geosciences** serves as a key member of the NSF senior policy and management team. The Assistant Director (AD) provides leadership and direction to programs and initiatives within GEO. The AD is responsible for planning and implementing programs, priorities and policy within the framework of statutory authority and National Science Board authority. The AD must have outstanding leadership abilities, a deep sense of scholarship, clear vision regarding opportunities and issues in the geosciences, and a commitment to attaining the goals through employment of the strategies of the National Science Foundation.